Presentation of Our Lord

St. Andrew Lutheran Church February 2, 2025



Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We will continue to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
- Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Started on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. A gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the entrance to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/

Presentation of Our Lord

Sunday, February 2, 2025 | 9:30 AM

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

PRELUDE

"O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright" Cathy Moklebust Bells of Grace

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration (ELW 167)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Allison Bengfort

READING Psalm 84

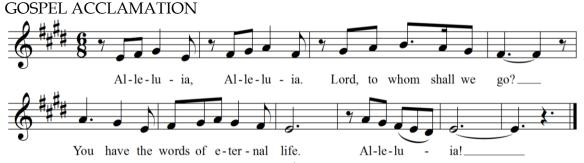
A reading from Psalms.

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! ²My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. ³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my sovereign and my God. 4Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you. ⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. 6Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. ⁷They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion. ⁸LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. ⁹Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed. ¹⁰For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. 11For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity. ¹²O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.



GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." 25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 685)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace, hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.). Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you prefer not to physically touch others.

The congregation is seated.

STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION & TESTIMONY

Kim Taylor Blakemore, Dwight Jerde

MEAL

GOD FEEDS US WITH THE PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online (standrewlutheran.com/give). Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERING

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Mozart/Musselman

Susan Werner Reiser, piano

The congregation may stand.

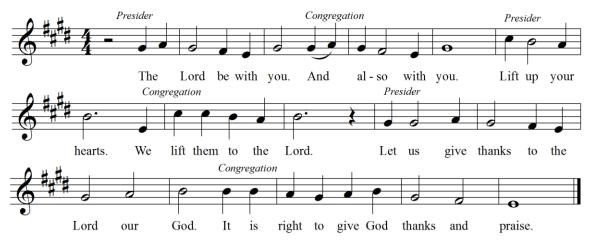
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

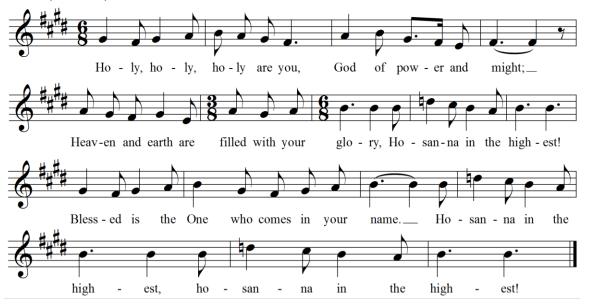
Amen.

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

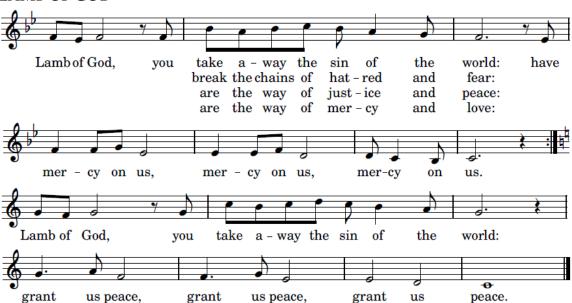
The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the cup of wine (red chalice) or the cup of grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of the bread only. If you prefer not to receive communion but would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lord of Light (ELW 688)

The congregation may stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US IN MISSION TO THE WORLD.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW 313)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" Susan Werner Reiser, organ Wayne J. Kerr

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pastor Allison Bengfort Preacher: Pastor Allison Bengfort Assisting Minister: LuAnn Staul

Acolyte:

Altar Flowers:

Altar Guild: Susan Werner Reiser Bells of Grace: Joe Calhoun, Libby Calhoun, Robert Casteel, Pat Christiansen, Liz Hardy,

Christina Mantey, Tammy Piscitelli, John Reiser, Kim Taylor Blakemore,

Casey Tkacz, Janet Vorvick

Communion Assistants: Greeter: Dana Blakemore Lector: Kim Taylor Blakemore Musician: Susan Werner Reiser

Nursery Assistant:

Tech Team:

Ushers: Amy & David Harker

Worship Coordinator: Sister India Jensen Kerr Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

